



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

No. 69

Senate

The Senate met at 2:45 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Today, Lord, we come to You offering our gratitude. Thank You for the light of day and the dark of night, for the hills and the sea, for the open roads and the wind on our faces. Thank You for dedicated lawmakers who take seriously their stewardship of influence and affluence, men and women who know that to whom much is given, much is required. Thank You for giving us hands which work, eyes which see, ears which hear, minds which think, memories which remember, and hearts which love. Thank You also that we are preparing ourselves for another greater life, one where all our questions will be answered and all our hopes realized. Lord, make us aware of all of Your gifts.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 30, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:15, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 4:15 the Senate will begin consideration of the FDA authorization. The chairman and ranking member, Senators KENNEDY and ENZI, have worked very hard to get the bill here. They did great work over the weekend. Two very important issues that would have made this bill much more complex, it appears, have been worked out. I hope that is the case. One deals with drug reimportation; the other deals with biomedicine. We think they have worked that out. Time will tell.

There will be no rollcall votes today. There will be a vote probably prior to the recess tomorrow. If we don't have something on the FDA bill, we have a Federal district court judge we need to vote on and we can get that out of the way.

The FDA legislation is extremely important. It appears we have the opportunity to do some bipartisan work in that regard.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 493

Mr. REID. I understand H.R. 493 is at the desk and is due for a second reading; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last Thursday a bipartisan majority of the Senate passed H.R. 1591. A conference report is basically what it was. This bill will be sent to the President's desk tomorrow. I have and will continue to encourage the President to set aside his veto threats and sign the bill. Our conference report honors and provides for our courageous men and women in uniform. It addresses emergencies Americans face at home while the war in Iraq rages, and makes our country more secure by charting a new course in Iraq so we can return our focus to the global challenges that lie ahead. This is a good and responsible bill. It will begin the long process of leading us out of a war that has cost so many American lives and so much treasure. It not only represents the will of Congress but also the will of the American people, who call for a new course, and the expertise of the military experts who tell us this war can only be won politically, not militarily, including the commander on the ground there, General Petraeus, who said exactly that, the war cannot be won militarily.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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